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that hardly a single name is retained nowadays, subsequent experience having displayed their inaccuracy and led to correction.

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### What is the Habitat of *Ophioglossum vulgatum*

R. C. BENEDICT

There seems to be some difference in opinion as to the usual habitat of *Ophioglossum vulgatum*. Note the two following references to it which have appeared in the FERN JOURNAL in the last few numbers.

"*Ophioglossum vulgatum* I have found several times, usually in dryish soil. It seems to like the shade of *Pteris*, and is probably not rare, but it is so slender that it is frequently overlooked."<sup>1</sup>

"From the description given above, it will be noted that the situation was not dissimilar to that required by *Ophioglossum*—indeed the latter occurred there—and it is not unlikely that careful search in *Ophioglossum* territory may reveal more localities for *Schizaea*."<sup>2</sup>

The latter statement brought a query from a member of the Society who is familiar with the flora of southern New Jersey, and who stated that the usual habitat for *Ophioglossum* in southern New Jersey was in the pine barrens, and that the locality as described by me above was most unusual. As it happened that I was there for *Schizaea*, and the *Ophioglossum* was not fertile, I did not collect any, particularly as the situation was not in any important respect different from the places in which I had already found *Ophioglossum*. But Mr. Knowlton's description of the *Ophioglossum* habitat shows it to be in Maine decidedly unlike those I am familiar with. Can we not have a symposium here in the Journal on the habitat of *Ophioglossum*? I would ask that all who have found the adder's tongue send in a statement of

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<sup>1</sup>C. H. Knowlton, Ferns and their Allies in Southern Franklin County, Maine. Am. Fern Jour. 4:5. 1914.

<sup>2</sup>American Fern Journal 3:13. 1913.

the localities in which they have found it. These statements should include a resume of the facts regarding the soil, dampness, associated plants, and exposure, or any others of importance. It will not be necessary to put the facts in form for publication, as it may be necessary if a large number respond, to summarize the replies anyway. One point will be of particular interest in connection with a fact noted by Prof. Campbell in his monograph on the *Ophioglossaceae*. He records the finding of at least most of the prothallia studied in locations where it was evident that the ground was subject to flooding at some period of the year. In this connection Mr. Webb's description of the habitat of *O. Engelmannii* in Missouri is interesting. Below I present a record of the localities in which I have found *Ophioglossum*.

1. Orange, New Jersey. Low flat sedgy meadow, dry at that time, early July, but probably wet after any hard rain; no shade. *Sphagnum* occurred in small patches for some time in the field.

2. Cornwall, Connecticut. Low, wet, boggy meadow; no shade; *Sphagnum* present; soil mucky.

3. Toms River, New Jersey. Low swamp; sandy soil; *Sphagnum* present in patches; the *Ophioglossum* occurred at the edge of a thicket, partly shaded.

4. Springside, Hackensack River Valley, N. J. Wet, sedgy, swamp meadow, probably dry later in the summer. Similar to the Cornwall station described above although no *Sphagnum* appeared to be present. This station was discovered this spring by Dr. A. B. Stout, of the New York Botanical Garden. It contains many thousands of plants. Probably all along the Hackensack meadows similar stations occur.

The four situations are essentially the same in that all represent more or less boggy conditions favored by *Sphagnum*. Where have you found the adder's tongue?

BROOKLYN, N. Y.